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TULAREMIA NOT FOUND IN DOMESTIC RABBITS

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Calling tularemia "rabbit fever" does an injustice to the domestic rabbit, says the Bureau of Biological Survey. No case of tularemia in commercial rabbitries is on record and it is safe to say there is no danger in handling such rabbits, or in eating the meat.

Tularemia is found in animals other than the wild rabbit and sometimes infects humans. Contact with an infected rabbit or other animal, or even insects, may result in infection, even though there is no skin abrasion.

Although domestic rabbits are susceptible to the infection by deliberate inoculation, the manner in which they are maintained and handled in commercial rabbitries rarely exposes them to the infection.

Leaflet No. B.S.-5, prepared by the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., discusses tularemia in rabbits. A copy may be obtained from the Bureau.

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